THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) Rule 12 of Regional Rural Banks (Appointment and Promotion of Officers and other Employees) Rules, 1998 stiputale that there shall be reservation of posts for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes and other categories of persons in such proportion as specified by the Central Government from time to time.

(b) Does not arise.

Domestic and foreign debt

699. SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total debt of Government of India as on February 1, 2003;

(b) what is the break-up of the debt both domestic and foreign;

(c) what is further break-up on the debt alongwith its servicing costs of each debt, and the rate of interest thereon; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to retire the high cost debts and replace them with low cost ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The latest availablve data on Government debt indicate that total debt was Rs. 10,90,259 crore as per 2002-03 Budget Estimates (BE).

(b) As per 2002-03 (BE), the internal debt was Rs. 10,21,739 crore and external debt stood at Rs. 68,520 crore.

(c) Servicing costs of different components of the two types of debt *i.e.* external and internal vary creditor-wise and instrument-wise.

(d) The Government has decided to prepay high cost external loans owed to IBRD and ADB for US $ 2,846 million in the current financial year, to be financed by cheaper domestic borrowings.